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SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE

OF THE

ISLAND OF JERSEY.

BY THOMAS LYTE,

CAPTAIN IN THE LATE FIRST GARRISON BATTALION.

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A SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY AND PRESENT STATE

OF THE

ISLAND OF JERSEY.

BOUNDARY, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

THE Island of Jersey is situated in latitude 49°. 20′. longitude 2 W. in the bay of Mount St. Michael, in the English Channel, between Cape Frehel and Cape la Hague, in France; ninety miles distant from the Isle of Wight, and eighty-four from the Island of Portland, in England. The nearest part of the coast of France is Cape Carteret, distant fourteen miles. Its greatest length is thirteen miles, and at

the two extremities, where broadest, six miles, comprising a surface of twenty-five thousand acres. This island contains twelve parishes, namely, St. Helier, St. Lawrencē, St. Peter, St. Ouen, St. Brelade, St. John, St. Mary, Trinity, St. Martin, St. Saviour, Grouville, and St. Clements; two market towns, St. Helier and St. Aubin. The country is so populous, and the number of houses so great, that it would be difficult to class the villages; there are many considerable ones, which are, in general, near each parish church. No regular survey has lately been made as to the number of inhabitants; the natives are computed at twenty-three thousand, and, in time of war, the King's troops and strangers at five thousand. The name of this island, before it was visited by the Romans, appears, from good authority, to have been Augia. The

name

name of Cesarea was given to it by the Romans, perhaps, on account of Julius Cæsar having visited it at the time of his conquests on the neighbouring continent. This appears the more probable from the remains of his name still existing in the island. Near Rosel, in the parish of Trinity, there is a considerable rampart of earth, which has evidently been a stupendous military work, still called Cæsar's Camp; and adjoining to Mount Orgueil Castle is a small fort known by the name of Cæsar's Fort. The present name of Jersey, or Gersey, is supposed to be derived from the ancient one of Cesarea, by Mr. Cambden. *Ey*, in the language of those northern nations who overran Europe about a thousand years ago, signifies an island, as in the name of Angles-ey, the Isle of the Angles. *Jers*, or *Gers*, and also *Cher*, is a contraction of Cæsar, as in the name of Cherburgh, in this

 neigh-

neighbourhood, so called from the ancient one of Cæsaris-bergum; Jersey may therefore be denominated Cæsar's Island.

The ancient inhabitants of this island, from its situation, were doubtless the Gauls; they continued subject to that nation till the reign of Charles the Fourth, surnamed the Simple; he, in the year 912, finding himself unable to repress the incursions of the Normans, who, under their leader Rollo, had committed great depredations on the western coasts of the kingdom, sent Franco, Archbishop of Rouen, with overtures of a treaty. "Will you, mighty chieftain," said he, "go on to make war with the Franks as long as you live? What will become of you, if death surprizes you; do you think that you are a God? Are you not a mortal man? Remember what you are, and will be, and by whom you must one day be judged."

He

He then proposed terms of accommodation, which were, that all the fine tract of country, part of Neustria, extending itself along the Britannic ocean, two hundred miles in length, with a proportionable breadth, should be yielded to Rollo and his successors for ever, to hold it in fief from the crown of France, with the title and dignity of Duke; and further, that if Rollo embraced Christianity, the King would give him his daughter Gilla to wife, whereby the peace and amity between the two nations would be more strongly cemented. The proposals were accepted, and the treaty concluded, at an interview between the King and Rollo. He proved a worthy ruler, and was remarkable for his attention to, and his strict administration of justice. The district yielded to him had long been a scene of rapine and confusion, he reduced it into order, and con-

stituted good laws. The province thus established he called Northmania, or Normandy. It became a powerful state; the people were civilized without losing any of their ancient courage, of which they afterwards gave signal proofs by their conquests of England, Naples, and Sicily.

A circumstance relative to Rollo is worthy of remark in this place, as the custom still exists, and is in force, in Jersey; it is a proof of the veneration in which his name was held for ages after he ceased to exist. In case of incroachment or invasion of property, or of any other violence or oppression which required immediate remedy, the party aggrieved called on the name of Rollo, thrice repeating aloud the words *Ha! Ro!* and immediately the aggressor was obliged to desist from proceeding. *Ah!* or *ha!* is the exclamation of a

person

person suffering, and *Ro!* is the Duke's name abbreviated; as much as to say, ah Rollo, my Prince, succour me. It is still a law here, and the exclamation is, *ha! Ro! à l'aide mon Prince!* This was doubtless instituted to prevent the oppressions of the powerful, who too often take advantage of their superior wealth to defeat the ordinary slow course of law. This is the famous *clameur de haro* so much commented on by the writers on the Norman laws. A remarkable example of this custom occurred 170 years after the death of Rollo, at the funeral of William the Conqueror, when a private man opposed the burying of his body. William had caused several houses to be pulled down at Caen, in order to build the great Abbey of St. Stephen, where he intended to be interred; one of the owners had received no satisfaction for the loss which he had sustained;

his son, on seeing the grave of the Conqueror beginning to be dug on the very spot where his father's house had stood, came boldly into the assembly, and forbad them, in the name of Rollo, to bury the body there; he addressed the company in these words—" He, who has oppressed kingdoms by his arms, has been my oppressor also, and has kept me under a continual fear of death; since I have outlived him who injured me, I mean not to acquit him now he is dead; the ground wherein you are going to lay this man is mine, and I affirm, that in justice none may bury their dead in ground which belongs to another; if, after he is gone, force and violence are still used to detain my ground from me, I appeal to Rollo, the father and founder of our nation, who, though dead, lives in his laws, I take refuge in those laws, owning no authority above them." This brave

speech,

speech, made in the presence of the deceased King's son, Prince Henry, had the desired effect, the *Ha! Ro!* was respected, the man had ample compensation made him, and the body of the King was suffered to be interred. The anecdote is related by Paulus Emylius. This island being separated from France by Rollo has remained so ever since, although Normandy has returned to its ancient possessors.

CLIMATE.

CLIMATE.

THE air of this island is remarkably temperate, more so than any part of Great Britain, from its more southerly situation; this temperature is still increased by the form of the island, which has a gradual declivity from north to south. The north side is exceedingly raised, and looks down on the sea from cliffs of forty or fifty fathoms of perpendicular height; from these heights there is a gradual declivity to the southern side, which is nearly on a level with the sea. This form defends the land from the cold north winds, and renders the island more temperate than its natural situation would otherwise admit of. Myrtles, geraniums, and other exotic plants, feel no inconvenience from the severest winter, in the open air; and grapes,

of

of a delicious flavor, are the usual ornaments to every rural cottage. The westerly winds are severely felt here, as there is no land to break their violence between this island and America.

Invalids may probably find the same benefit from the temperate air of this Island, as they experience by travelling to the distant shores of Montpelier or Portugal.

RIVERS.

RIVERS.

THE rivers, or rivulets, of this island, are very numerous, and although not sufficiently large for the breeding of fish, (the eel excepted) yet from the declivity of the island above mentioned, they are found sufficiently powerful to turn many mills necessary to grind the corn of the inhabitants. On the side where the rivers rise some windmills are used.

AGRI-

AGRICULTURE.

THE agriculture of this island may more properly be termed gardening; there are few farms, occupied by one person, which exceed twenty acres, in general they are under ten; this has originated from the division of property which takes place on the death of the head of a family; every son has a portion of the land possessed by the father, and the daughters have also a part amongst them, this must of course be divided when they marry: this division of property has also been the cause of the great number of houses in the island. When the younger sons have no house on their portion of land, they frequently build one, and content themselves with their twenty or thirty vergees of land, and their industry, for the maintenance

tenance of their families. A vergee is one third part of an English acre. These small portions of ground are easily attended to, and are generally in a high state of cultivation. The corn grown here is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants, and much is imported from Great Britain, America, &c. Formerly agriculture was in a different state, for in the year 1538 wheat was exported from this island to Spain. Rye, barley and oats are grown, and occasionally mixt with the flour for bread, sometimes bean-flour is also used in the composition. Much clover, lucern, and other grass seeds are sown, and pay extremely well, particularly lucern on the sea coast, which is very sandy. Few pastures are long continued in their natural state, but are ploughed, and after a course of crops, again laid down with clover, rag grass, &c.

MANURE.

MANURE.

THE general manure made use of here is the produce of the farm, together with sea weed, or vraie, and its ashes. This vraie grows in great abundance on the rocks round the island, it is cut only twice a year, but those who live on the sea-shore find a great deal torn from the rocks by storms, and they make a considerable profit by collecting it. The summer vraieing takes place in the month of July, and continues for one tide, during which time all descriptions of inhabitants, or their servants, repair to the sea, and with hooks, made for the purpose, cut the vraie from the rocks, bring it in carts above high water mark, and dry it. The southern shore of the island is chiefly frequented for this purpose. The sea weed, when dried, is

carried

carried home, and serves for the winter fuel, particularly in kitchens. It makes a hot fire, but has a very disagreeable smell to strangers. The ashes are carefully preserved, and considered the best manure made use of. The winter vraieing begins in the month of February. The weed collected at this season is immediately put on the land, and occasionally ploughed in; grass is also manured with it, and its effects are very beneficial, but it does not continue more than one season. The vraie has the property of destroying slugs and snails. Lime has been found to be an excellent manure in this island, where it has had a fair trial; but as there is no limestone found here, it is very expensive when imported.

LIVE

LIVE STOCK.

THE cattle of this island are generally small; very few are bred for the market, except calves. Bullocks are universally used in the cart, and killed when past their labour. A sufficient number of cows are kept for the use of the inhabitants in milk and butter; the remainder are exported to England, where they sell at a high price. The sheep are small and ill fed, so that beef and mutton of the island are rather a disgrace than an ornament to the market, some exceptions occasionally occur. Veal and lamb are very good, and the markets are well supplied from England in war time, and from France in peace. Where the farms are small, very little live stock can be kept; and as meat is not an object with the lower class of inhabitants, the want of it is not felt.

HORSES.

THE Jersey horses are generally small, but very strong and hardy; they seldom have beauty or good shape, but are extremely docile and fitted for labour. Many handsome horses are brought from England, and the breed of the country has been much improved by them.

SWINE.

SWINE.

SWINE are very numerous in this island, every farm has from two to five or six; they are always kept in sties, and fed with the offal of the house, particularly with a species of greens called here Jersey choax. They eat very little oat-meal, but are fattened with potatoes, barley, and bean-meal, together together with parsnips, which are grown in great abundance here, and chiefly made use of to feed pigs; they are found to answer extremely well, as winter food, for any kind of cattle, and the land where they are sown produces a double crop at the same time, for beans are universally planted in rows with the parsnips, and are in general a very productive crop. The beans are sufficiently ripe to take off the ground before the parsnips swell to any great size, and when the beans are gone, they have room to acquire their utmost

 perfection,

perfection, and are a better and heavier crop than is generally seen in England. A great quantity of pork is brought to the market during the winter, and sold at a moderate price, on an average from *5d.* to *7d.* the pound. The bacon made here is excellent, and when hung in the smoke of a fire made with vraie, has a remarkable fine flavour. Pork is almost the only meat eaten by the lower class of people; they kill their pigs, as soon as they are fat, in the autumn and winter, and salt the meat for their provision the ensuing year; the fat or lard is kept for making soup, which is eaten every day by most of the natives; this soup is usually made with cabbage and lard stewed together, in a great quantity of water, and some slices of bread put in it, when brought to table. Young pigs, of an age to be taken from the sow, are sold from eight to fourteen shillings a-piece in the market.

WOOD.

WOOD.

THIS island is well supplied with wood, it is the only fuel (except the sea-weed) used by the inhabitants in general. The trees are so numerous, that a stranger, looking over the face of the country, would suppose it was one entire wood—particularly in the middle and southern parts; the trees, however, do not acquire any large size, perhaps from the custom of lopping their branches, every six or seven years, or from the enclosures being so extremely small, that the trees have not a sufficient circulation of air for their nourishment.

The apple trees are also very small here, and of a short duration; this arises from two causes:—first, the mode of rais-

ing apple trees, by planting a branch, and grafting on that branch, instead of sowing a pip or seed of the apple, as is usual in England; by this method, the roots never extend, so as to nourish or support the tree, and the first gale of wind which occurs, after it has acquired some size, lays it prostrate, never to rise again: the second reason why the apple tree does not arrive at the same perfection here as in England, is, the trees being planted too near to each other, which prevents them from flourishing, and the fruit from acquiring the delicious flavour it is capable of.

A sensible and enlightened clergyman, of this Island, the Rev. Francis Le Coateur, has lately written a clear and perspicuous tract on this subject, entitled— "*Aperçu sur la culture des Pommiers et la manipulation du Cidre.*" This excellent

treatise

treatise will, no doubt, influence the unprejudiced cultivator to improve on the old mode practised here; and the English gentleman and farmer may find many hints contained in it, which would assist the cultivation of his orchard and nursery. The custom of lopping the trees is absolutely necessary here, for the enclosures being so small, nothing could grow in them, if the trees were suffered to enjoy all the luxuriance which Nature intended.

Although the country appears to be a forest, there are very few woods here: the land is too valuable to be employed in that manner, in the internal parts of the Island; and on the coast, (where it is poor) trees would not grow. The small enclosures render the face of the country beautiful to the eye, and afford great

shelter to the orchards, which produce the staple commodity of the Island. The woods common to Jersey are—oak, elm, ash, chesnut, and beech; there are many others, but not usually planted as forest trees: these grow large enough for domestic purposes, but can scarcely be called timber.

WASTE

WASTE LAND.

THERE is little land in this Island which can be called waste: the sea-coast is, in general, uncultivated, being chiefly sand, but still it is of considerable value to the proprietor. On the northern coast, it produces a large quantity of furze, which sells for a high price to the bakers, and also feeds a few sheep. The south shore is let for a large sum to those who reside at a distance from the sea, for the purpose of drying their sea-weed; in the summer a few cattle are also fed on it. The good land lets for ten or twelve pounds an acre: the farm generally includes an orchard, which on an average will produce twenty-four hogsheads of cider per acre, yearly, besides the grass. One great encouragement to the planting

of

of apple trees, in this Island, is the difficulty of procuring hands to get in the harvest, if the ground was arable; there are few labourers to be hired; every man has a farm of his own to attend to; and is, of course, employed. The mode generally pursued is, for one farmer to assist another; but this necessarily protracts the work, and if there was much corn to be cut, some of it must be lost, by remaining on the ground after it was ripe. The apples are in no danger—they do not lose their value, by remaining a short time on the ground, and every family can collect the produce of their orchard, which will pay better than if corn was grown on the land. Every farmer, has, however, nearly corn enough for his own consumption, but all which is used by the King's troops, and strangers, is imported.

MINES

MINES AND MINERALS.

THERE are few mines or minerals in Jersey, no calcareous substance has ever been discovered here. The only mine deserving notice, is a quarry of very fine stone, in the parish of St. John, at a place called Mont Mado. This stone is capable of being raised in large blocks, like the Portland Stone, and will bear a polish, nearly as fine as marble: much of it is exported to England, and the best houses in the Island are fronted with it. There are no minerals raised for use, but from the many chalybeate springs, there is no doubt of the existence of iron below the surface. Ochres, of various colours, are common all over the Island, but have been noticed by very few of the inhabitants. Pipe-clay, and fuller's earth are also

also abundant, but not generally known, and no use made of either. Future ages may possibly witness these articles a considerable branch of exportation, although at present, pipe-clay, to a great amount, is imported, for the use of the troops, &c. The stone made use of for building, is the Rag Stone, of which there is great abundance, both on the shores of the Island and below the surface.

FISH.

FISH.

THE sea round this Island abounds with fish, of various kinds, such as are generally known in Great Britain; but although great quantities are easily caught, the price is very high. There are two kinds found here, which are not common in Britain; these are the Ormer *(Auris Marina)* and the Sand Eel. The Ormer derives its name from the French, *Oreille de Mer*, it having a great resemblance to the human ear: it is a shell-fish, sticking to the rocks, in the same manner as limpets —the shell is oblong, and as large as an ordinary sized oyster; the flesh is very delicious, and not unlike veal, in taste and substance; the inside of the shell has the appearance of mother of peal, and may be used for inlaying instead of it. The

Ormer

Ormer is only found when the tide retires very low.

The Lançon, or Sand Eel, is caught on the sand banks, with a small hook, at low water: it is from six to nine inches long, almost transparent, and very delicate; they are found in some parts of England. Eels are common in all the waters here, and Carp and Tench are abundant in the ponds of gentlemen.

Were the fishermen industrious, the markets might be plentifully supplied, at a cheap rate, but there is not a trawl in the Island, and the line and set-net, is the only mode of catching fish here.—There are no crabs of a large size found, but lobsters are excellent, and cheap. The Red Mullet and John Dory are frequently caught, and are much larger than

those

those taken in England. A gentleman of the Island informed the author, that he had seen taken from the stomach of a John Dorey, thirty-six Plaice and four Bass, all in an undigested state.

Since the above account was written, a company of gentlemen have entered into a subscription to supply the Island with fish, and have sent to England for boats, trawls, &c.

MANU-

MANUFACTURES AND TRADE.

THE only manufacture worthy of notice, is cider, of which there is more made here than on any other spot in Europe, of the same size. This Island has been denominated "a sea of cider:" the usual produce is, from thirty to thirty-five thousand hogsheads per annum, of which about ten thousand, or upwards, are exported to England, Ireland, Newfoundland, &c. at the price, on an average, of thirty shillings per hogshead. Woollen stockings, caps, and gloves, were formerly manufactured here, to a considerable extent, but it has much decreased within these few years.

The principal trade of Jersey is the Newfoundland Fishery, which is carried on

on extensively, and employs a great many vessels. Some large settlements have been formed in America, by the merchants of this Island, for the manufacture of salt fish, and great quantities are shipped yearly, both for foreign and home consumption. Apples and potatoes are exported in considerable quantities, also cows. The articles of importation are—lime and limestone; bullocks, groceries, flour, cloth, cheese, butter, wood, iron, hardware, and earthen-ware; glass, and many other necessaries of life, both for domestic, agricultural, medicinal, and culinary purposes. This trade employs many large vessels, to England, Ireland, and foreign markets. In time of war, great numbers of privateers are fitted out here, and are a great annoyance to the trade of the enemy.

CIVIL JURISDICTION.

The magistracy of this Island consists of the bailly, lieutenant-bailly, and twelve jurats. Their institution took place in the reign of King John, who, by his charter of election, stiled them *Coronatores Jurati.* Their duty is to decide controversies, to enforce a general obedience to the laws, and have the power of life and death. The bailly, who has the power of nominating his lieutenant, is appointed by his Majesty. The jurats are elected by the freeholders of the Island, but have no emolument whatever from their office. These, together with an attorney-general, a solicitor-general, high-sheriff, deputy-sheriff, clerk, six pleaders or advocates, two denonciateurs or sheriff's officers, and an usher and writers, form the royal court of Jersey. The greffier or clerk,

the

the advocates, and the denonciateurs, are nominated by the bailly. This Royal Court, thus formed, takes cognizance of all suits and actions, both real, personal, and criminal, treason excepted. The only appeal from this court, is to the King and Council. Acts of parliament are of no effect here, unless the Island of Jersey is named particularly in them; and no taxes can be levied by the English Government. The Royal Court having a diversity of causes to deliberate on, have formed themselves into four different denominations, for the determinations of different subjects, consisting of *La Cour d'Heritage*, *La Cour de Catel*, *La Cour du Billet*, and *La Cour du Samedi*.

La Cour d'Heritage, the first and most solemn, admits of none but hereditary matters to be discussed in it, as

 partitions

partitions of estates between co-heirs, differences amongst neighbours, about bounds, the property of rents due for tenements or lands, let in fee-farm, and other things of the like nature. To preserve inheritance in families, the next of kin has a right to redeem what is sold, by returning the money to the purchaser. This is an extraordinary law, known only in this Island. The opening of this court is attended with a great deal of formality. After the first day, the court is open to transact business every Tuesday and Thursday following, till the end of the term, the twelve jurats assisting by turns, three at least at a time.

La Cour du Catel, is for deciding disputes about chattels, moveables, arrears of rents, &c. Arrears may be sued for, as far back as thirty-nine years; but the great

great business of this court is the adjudication of decrees, the meaning of which is this :—When a man is unable to satisfy his creditors, he becomes a bankrupt, as in England, but the mode of proceeding is very different here: instead of an equal division of the bankrupt's property amongst the creditors, the last creditor is asked by the court, if he will take the property, and pay the rest of the creditors their full demands? If he refuses to do so, he loses all claim to his debt, and the next in order has the same question put to him. Thus it proceeds, till the estate is thought equal to the remaining debts, which are paid to the full amount, by the person who takes the property. Large sums are frequently made by the speculator, who often sells the unfortunate debtor's effects for much more than remains to be paid.

We are not to comment on the equity of this law. At this court, and usually on the first day of it, criminals and malefactors take their trial, whereat seven jurats, at least, must be present, if the crime be capital; three are sufficient for the ordinary Catel Court.

La Cour du Billet, is an extraordinary court, first set up subsidiarily, when decrees grew so frequent, and took up so much time, as hardly to leave room for other business, whereupon matters of less moment, as arrests, distrains, suits for arrears of rents, not exceeding ten years, and the like, were removed to this new court, which is named *le Billet*—all causes which are brought into it, being set down in a billet or roll, and affixed to the gate of the court, so that persons concerned,

inspecting

inspecting that roll, may know, within a short time, when their cause will come on.

La Cour du Samedi, is another extraordinary court, and properly but a branch of the former: it is principally for the King's causes, and for those of the jurats, which are privileged, and not tied to the common rule of Billet; for causes of brevity, which will admit of no delay, as sea affairs, contracts between merchants, breaches of the peace, &c. The fees are very small, in all these courts, which certainly encourages the people to be very litigious, for there is more business transacted in the courts of Jersey, than in any three counties in England.

There is also a Dean's Court, for the transacting of ecclesiastical matters, at

which the dean presides, and the twelve ministers are his assistants.

The laws of this Island may be reduced under five heads :

First, the ancient custom of Normandy, as it stood before the alienation of that duchy, in the reign of King John, and was contained in an old book, called, in the rolls of the itinerant judges—" *La Somme de Mançel*," for whatever changes have since been introduced, can be of no force here: this is to Jersey, what the Statute Law is in England.

Secondly, municipal and local usages, which are the unwritten and traditionary law, like the common law in England.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, constitutions and ordinances, made by the Kings of England, together with such rules and orders as are transmitted here, from time to time, by the council board.

Fourthly, precedents and former judgments recorded in the rules of the court; these last, indeed, cannot properly be called laws, as they have not the royal authority: still great regard is paid to them in doubtful cases.

Fifthly, a code of laws formed by the States of the Island, in the year 1771, and confirmed by the King and Council.

In each parish is a constable, who is, in a great measure, similar to a justice of the peace in England, only he has greater privileges, being a member of the States

of

of the Island. He is elected by the free-holders of the parish; his office is triennial, he is assisted by two centineers, and other inferior officers. In every parish assembly, if it is for secular affairs, the constable presides; if for religious, the minister.

The Convention of the States is, in a great degree, a representation of the Parliament of Great Britain, in miniature. It is composed of the jurats, or court of justice, of the clergy, and constables, as representatives of their parishes. The King's procurator, the viscount, and the King's advocate, though they represent no estate, are also admitted, but have only a deliberating voice. This Convention cannot be held without the consent of the governor or his lieutenant, who has a negative voice. The bailly or lieu-

tenant-

tenant-bailly, is the prolocutor. No States can be held without seven of each class be present, except the Island is thought in danger; those who do not attend are liable to be fined. The business of these meetings, is the raising of money for public occasions. Public accounts are examined, as also the disposal and administration of the church treasures; public works are determined on; and, in short, every thing which comes before the Parliament of the United Kingdoms, is in a similar manner discussed by the States of this Island.

RELIGION.

RELIGION.

This Island was converted to Christianity, about the year 565, by St. Magloire, a British bishop, who succeeded his uncle as bishop of Dol. He resigned his bishoprick to St. Budoc, and settled in Jersey, where he died, and was buried in a small chapel in the parish of St. Saviour, near to where the free school of St. Magloire (corruptly called St. Manlier) now stands. The Normans getting possession of this Island some years after, caused great persecution to the Christians. The only martyr, whose name has been transmitted to us, is St. Helier, who had retired from the world to a rock, near the place where Elizabeth Castle now stands, and is still called the Hermitage. This holy man they put to death, with circumstances which gained him the reputation

of

of a martyr: he is celebrated by Voltaire, in his Henriade. Some years after, a Norman nobleman founded an abbey of canons regular, of the Order of St. Augustine, to his memory, and named it the Abbey of St. Helier; it was endowed with a considerable revenue in Jersey and Normandy, but lost its splendour in the following manner:—

In the reign of Henry the Second, the Empress Maud built an abbey at Cherburgh, in consequence of a vow made during a storm at sea; the endowment not being large enough, the Abbey of St. Helier was made subject to it, and reduced to a priory. At the suppression of alien priories, in the reign of Henry the Fifth, this fell with others. No part of the ruins now remain, as they were demolished, when Elizabeth Castle was built. Besides this abbey, there were

four

four priories — Noirmont, St. Clements, Bonne Nuit, and De Lecq; twelve parish churches, and upwards of twenty chapels; the ruins of some of these chapels still remain, but have nothing worthy of notice in their appearance. The parish churches are very handsome gothic structures, which have withstood the shock of time; and are used at present for divine worship. Most of these churches have lofty spires, which are built on arches, in such a manner, that no wood is employed in the construction of the roof, which considerably strengthens, and secures them, both from fire and the destruction of time.

Before the reign of Elizabeth, the Island was in the diocese of Coutance, in Normandy, but that illustrious Queen annexed it to Winchester. The Norman abbots had great revenues from the churches here, all of which were seized by

the

the King, at the Reformation; the clergy therefore have but small incomes from their livings, and they are forbid, by the canons, from holding more than one parish. The number of ministers of the Gospel are twelve, including the dean. These have the small tithes only, the great tithes of ten parishes belong to the King, and are given by him to the governor, as part of his salary.

Three Fellowships are endowed at the University of Oxford, for the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, to be held by them alternately. To these three fellowships, which are in the colleges of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke, have been since added five scholarships in the Pembroke college—three for Jersey, and two for Guernsey. These Fellowships were instituted by the exertions of Archbishop Laud, and the scholarships were given by Bishop Morley.

Morley. There are two Free Grammar Schools in this Island; one in the parish of St. Saviour, called St. Manlier; the other in the parish of St. Peter, named St. Athanase: these are under the direction of the dean and ministers. There is a fund belonging to each church, called the Treasure of the Church, which consists of quarters of rents, given at different periods, by pious persons, for the use of the church, repair of the parsonage-house, &c. There is also a treasure of the poor, given as the former, which, together with the money collected at the church door, every Sunday, and a poor-box, fixed in each church yard, fully supplies the necessities of the poor, without having recourse to poor rates, as in England. The inhabitants are extremely regular in their attendance at divine worship, and the administration of the holy sacrament; and so pure has the protes-

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tant religion continued here, that before the late revolution in France, there was not one Roman Catholic in the Island: since that period, many emigrants from France have settled here, and imported their principles with them. There are a few Methodists, Calvinists, and Quakers here, and much exertion has been made, to increase the number of the two former sects.

These seceders from the Established Church are perhaps not aware of the calamities brought on the inhabitants of Jersey, by the Calvinistical reformers, in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First. Those innovators made themselves both the Judges and Ministers of the people; and such as did not chuse to conform to their absurd tenets, suffered heavy fines and imprisonment.

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, &c.

THE Military Establishment of the Island of Jersey consists of the

Governor,
Lieutenant-Governor, who is also Commander in Chief,
The Second in Command,
Chief Engineer,
Assistant Engineers,
Assistant Adjutant-General,
2 Brigade Majors,
2 Aide du Camps,
Military Secretary,
Town Major,
Inspector of Militia,
12 Assistant Inspectors,
Adjutant-General of Militia,
Inspector of Island Artillery,
Chaplain,
Surgeon-General,

Pay-

Paymaster-General,
Apothecary-General,
Commissary,
Barrack Master,
Assistant Barrack Master,
A troop of Island Cavalry,
Six regiments of Militia,
Besides Artillery and Regiments of the Line, sufficient for the defence of the Island.

The Government of Jersey has been held by persons of the first distinction in Great Britain. Amongst the number may be reckoned John, Earl of Morton, brother to Richard the First; Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward the First; John, Duke of Bedford, brother of Henry the Fifth; with many others of equal rank. It was made a distinct Government by Henry the Seventh; before his

time it was usually joined with Guernsey, &c. He visited the Island, and considerably improved the police of it.

The military exploits of the inhabitants rank high in the page of history, as far as concerns the defence of their Island against invaders; and amidst the various revolutions which have attended the continental parts of Normandy, the Island of Jersey has undeviatingly remained stedfast to the Sovereigns of England; nor has this permanency in allegiance proceeded from that inert disposition in mankind, which, untried or untempted, holds them, like gravitation, immoveably attached to the race of their ancient Princes. The armaments which have been repeatedly prepared, and destined by the French to reduce this Island under their dominion, were both numerous and formidable;

midable; and yet, in every attempt, the Gallican powers have been defeated by the inhabitants, unassisted, except in two instances, by the armies of Great Britain.

The noble tree of loyalty has long flourished here; and, although there may be some underwood surrounding it, yet those exotics can never raise their heads, so as to injure even the lowest branches of this glorious British evergreen.

In the reign of King John, this Island made a great stand against the French. The King being informed of the loyalty of the inhabitants, sent assistance to them, and afterwards visited the Island in person. He fortified the weak places, and appointed proper officers, under the name of Wardens, to have a watchful eye over the ports and harbours. He instituted

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the Royal Court, and the appeal to King and Council. He gave also the constitutions, or Magna Charta of Jersey, which have been the foundation of all the franchises and immunities now existing in the Island. He visited it a second time, about three years before his death, so anxious was he for its welfare.

In the reign of Edward the First, Jersey was invaded by the French, and after a very severe contest, the enemy was beaten off with great loss. The King was so much pleased with the bravery of the Islanders, that he made a provision for the widows and orphans of those who fell on the occasion.

The Island was repeatedly invaded by the French. In the reign of Edward the Third, Mont Orgueil Castle was besieged,

and

and the Governor, Drouet de Barenten, Seigneur de Rosel, was killed; the enemy was, however, driven off, with great loss: they returned again with the Constable of France, the great Du Guesclin, the Duke of Bourbon, the flower of the French nobility, and ten thousand men. After besieging Mont Orgueil Castle for some months, the garrison agreed to surrender, if not relieved before Michaelmas; in the mean time an English fleet appeared off Jersey, and the French were obliged to make their escape.

In the reign of Henry the Fourth, this Island suffered much from the depredations of the French; but its castles remained unconquered.

During the reign of Henry the Sixth, this Island was given up to a Norman

 Chieftain,

Chieftain, by Queen Margaret, in consequence of his sending two thousand men to England, to support Henry against his rebellious subjects. This man took possession of Mont Orgueil Castle, and also of six parishes; but, after six years exertions, he could made no farther impression on the Island: the other six parishes remained firm in their allegiance to the English Government. They were commanded by a brave man, Philip de Carteret, Seigneur de St. Ouen, who had taken possession of Grosney Castle; and, with his determined followers, resisted all the attempts of the Normans.

As soon as Edward the Fourth ascended the throne, a fleet was sent to the relief of Jersey. Sir Richard Harliston, Admiral of the expedition, was informed by De Carteret, of the state of the Island,

and

and they agreed to besiege Mont Orgueil Castle, both by sea and land. After some unsuccessful attempts of the Normans to open a communication with the Continent, they surrendered at discretion. De Carteret had a very narrow escape of being made prisoner, during this contest: he was nearly surrounded by the French—no means of evading his enemies presented itself, but to leap across a deep road, upwards of twenty feet wide. The noble animal he rode, carried him in safety over it, and outstripped all his pursuers; but, on arriving at the castle gates, he fell dead at the feet of his master. A painting of the horse is still preserved by the family of De Carteret.

The Islanders gained much credit by their brave conduct on this occasion: they had a new charter granted them, with an acknow-

acknowledgment of their good service, which has been repeated in all succeeding charters. Sir Richard Harliston was made Governor of the Island, but it does not appear that any reward was given to De Carteret, by the British Government. Sir Richard Harliston shewed his approbation of De Carteret's conduct, by bestowing on his son, Margaret, daughter of Sir Richard, in marriage.

Henry the Seventh visited Jersey, when Earl of Richmond, on his way to France, being pursued by his enemies of the House of York. On his ascending the throne, he gave a body of ordinances, contained in thirty-three articles, to the Island, many of which are still in force.

The reign of Edward the Sixth was not passed in peace by the inhabitants of Jersey.

Jersey. The French revived their ancient attempts upon the Island; the armament was formidable; the descent effected, and the attack was vigorous; but the souls of these insulars, inured to battle, were not to be dismayed by powers so superior; they met them sword to sword, on the sandy shore; and, after a long and bloody contest, in which great numbers of their enemies were slain, they drove the remainder to their ships, and obtained a compleat victory.

The reign of Elizabeth passed without disturbance to this Island; and the pacific disposition of James the First preserved it in tranquillity, while he was seated on the throne. Even the reign of Charles the First, distinguished with such amazing variety of calamities, by the malignity

lignity and rebellion of his subjects, was unstained with blood in Jersey.

George de Carteret, bred in the navy, distinguished for his knowledge in military affairs, and esteemed for his great abilities as a naval commander, refused to accept the offers of serving the Parliament. He was intimately acquainted with the character of the parliamentary demagogues: he knew the blackness of their souls, detested the insidiousness of their designs, and withdrew, in indignation, to prepare the best assistance he could procure his Sovereign, in the little Isle of Jersey, his native land, should the arms of rebellion be at length extended to those shores. The inhabitants had already groaned beneath the curses of Calvinistical reformers, who had usurped,

ed, in the days of Elizabeth, an absolute dominion, religious and civil, over the consciences and conduct of the people of the Island. The detestation of such returning tyranny in the parliamentary fanatics, added no inconsiderable incentive to their loyalty, and united them with energy, to the cause and ardour of De Carteret. In order, therefore, to contribute in supporting the King, and distressing his rebellious subjects, they built small ships of war, which, authorized by commissions from his Majesty, cruized in the channel, and took great numbers of those vessels which sailed under parliamentary passports. They brought considerable prizes into their ports, and became formidable to the commerce of the rebels, who bestowed on them the name of Jersey pirates. It was now that their protestations of contending

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for the liberty of the people, were terminated in the democratic despotism of a miscreant rabble. In the House of Commons, their pretensions to improve the constitution had concluded in the extermination of all legal authority: the court of Star Chamber was more than revived in those sanguinary tribunals, which decreed the murder of their King and his loyal subjects: their professions of love for their Sovereign had finished in bringing him to the block. Religion was devoured by hypocrisy; and every moral and religious obligation was superseded by that liberty of conscience, which never hesitated at the commission of all the crimes, which the laws of God and man forbid.

Charles the Second was proclaimed in Jersey, and the remains of native allegi-

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ance seemed to be limited to the narrow bounds of that isolated spot, in which he twice found refuge from the enemies of himself, and of human society. Since the royal murder at Whitehall, he had returned to the Scots, who had sold his father to his enemies; but Cromwell and the Parliament being now more formidable, and more detested, than a murdered King, they invited his son to resume that kingdom, and promised to support him. The contemptuous manner in which they treated him; the horrid persecution of being compelled to the hearing a ten hours rant of fanatic nonsense, by those seekers of the Lord, (the result of whose search ended in finding the devil), was a calamity too afflictive to be borne, for the obtaining of any kingdom but that of heaven. It was from the aversion which Charles conceived against those impious

hypocritic

hypocritic exclamations, that he contracted a contempt for all religion. An army was raised, which marched with the King into England, and was defeated at Worcester. His Majesty escaped the diligence and assassination of the rebels, by means almost incredible, and at last was safely landed in France. The regicides, elate with the victory at Worcester, and inflamed with vengeance at the unshaken fidelity of the Islanders of Jersey, who dared to remain loyal, in opposition to their nefarious edicts, determined to put an end to that remains of faithfulness to their King, which yet subsisted in that Island; to this resolution they were not a little induced, by the activity of the Jersey ships of war. A numerous fleet was equipped, and the command given to Admiral Blake; a considerable body of troops were embarked, and Haines

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was appointed to command them. They sailed from England, and on the 20th of October, 1651, they anchored in the bay of St. Ouen, on the coast of Jersey. The formidable force of this armament was not the most discouraging object with which De Carteret had to engage. Superstition, which, on some occasions, so powerfully invades the minds of men, and inevitably enters into the causes of most signal events, co-operated with the designs of the rebels. The sea, which at that season of the year, is in almost constant turbulence, in the bay of St. Ouen, was at that time as placid and smooth, as an inland lake: this unseasonable phenomenon was, by the superstitious multitude, construed as a prediction, that heaven had vouchsafed a fortunate issue to this expedition of the regicides. A rumour had also been promulged, that the

King had been slain, at the battle of Worcester. By the united efficacy of these causes, their spirits were much depressed; they imagined, that if success should attend their resistance, that Prince was no longer living, to reign over them, who, when in Jersey, had strengthened the bands of allegiance, by his great complacency to the people. Dismay appeared in the faces of most of the common soldiers, and many expressions were uttered signifying their apprehensions of a defeat. De Carteret alone manifested no diffidence of success; from him neither look, word, nor gesture, escaped, which could signify the most distant suspicion of apprehension. He shewed them that the smoothness of the sea was owing to natural causes. "To conceive, that the special protection of Heaven is deigned to rebels, who have murdered one King, and

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as you imagine slain another in battle, is an impious reflection on the righteousness of the Almighty. Your King yet lives—your cause is great—your allegiance glorious! Let the ardour of your actions be equal to the importance of that duty in which you are engaged. Remember the illustrious deeds of your ancestors—imitate their valour—contaminate not their renown by your degeneracy, and your arms shall be crowned with equal victory. Dismiss your groundless fears—I am a man, as susceptible of real danger as yourselves. Support your resolution with firmness, till you see me tremble."

These words, accompanied with those persuasive looks of confidence, which minds the most exalted can alone assume in dubious circumstances, pervaded the loyal bosoms of the Islanders. It dissi-

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pated the gloom of terror which hung over them and depressed their souls. His activity confirmed the accents which he uttered—courage resumed her seat in the hearts of his companions: they believed, and manfully resolved to live or die with him, and that cause, which he had undertaken to sustain. The rebels were now embarked in their boats and prepared to land; De Carteret and his valiant companions stood firm and ready to oppose them; and so conspicuous was their change from dejection to ardour—so great was their impatience to meet those regicides in battle, that those men who had no weapons, supported others seated on their shoulders, who were armed, and marched into the sea to meet them. They attacked the invaders, in their boats, with incredible impetuosity, and killed such numbers, that fear invaded even the veteran troops of

Cromwell,

Cromwell, who fled with precipitation to their ships. De Carteret embraced this auspicious moment to confirm that enthusiasm which he had so judiciously excited, and turning to his conquering comrades—"For whom now has Heaven smoothed the sea?" said he; and not an atom of superstitious fear remained in the hearts of his fellow-soldiers.

Defeated in this attempt, the fleet weighed anchor, and steered to St. Brelades Bay. De Carteret and his army marched immediately to that part of the coast. The night was employed by the invaders in preparations for a descent in the morning. The General and his Islanders lay on their arms, waiting their approach. The dawning day saw the rebels in their boats, and the Royalists ready to receive them. The repulse of the preced-

ing day had struck such terror into the hearts of the fanatics, that after a few discharges of cannon from the Islanders, they shrunk from the attempt, and returned with timidity to their vessels. The greatest part of the fleet sailed again to St. Ouen's Bay: nineteen ships of war remained at St. Brelades, and a reinforcement of the land army arrived on that day. De Carteret, leaving part of his forces to oppose the latter, marched with expedition to meet the others. They made no attempt to land at St. Ouens, but continued their course to the northern part of the Island: thither the insular commander repaired, with equal diligence. In this manner, moving from place to place, without daring to land, they harrassed the little army of De Carteret so, that in three days and nights, they had neither rest or refreshment, but continued

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under arms, in spite of incessant rain, which fell in torrents the whole time. Although their souls were unconquered, yet the frailty of human nature was unable to support longer fatigue, without some repose. De Carteret, still indefatigable, remained with his small regiment of horse, to oppose their descent. The rebels landed, under the cover of a dark night: the engagement was sharp on both sides, and fresh forces poured continually from the fleet. The infantry of Jersey hastened to the aid of their valiant countrymen, but they were necessarily too remote to return to the combat before their gallant leader, borne down by numbers, was obliged to retire from the field. Though on the side of the loyalists, their whole force consisted but of one small regiment, the battle was attended with great slaughter: too many of the valiant Islanders signed this last

act of their allegiance, with their blood: amongst these was the brave Colonel Bovil. By this defeat—broken, but not subdued, De Carteret, accompanied by some of the principal men in the Island, retreated to Elizabeth Castle: this fortress he had provided with military stores and provisions, sufficient for a long siege.

The descent being accomplished, the rebels attacked the fort which commands the road of St. Aubins: the officer entrusted with the command of that fortress, had received the strictest orders from the General, to defend it to the last extremity, but with his orders it was impracticable for De Carteret to transfuse his animating and invincible spirit. The Commander, almost at the first summons, surrendered the place; and by that dastardly behaviour, the harbour of St. Aubins was open

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for the reception of the rebel fleet. Had that miscreant been equal to the confidence reposed in him; had his courage afford-ed one day's defence, this mighty armament would have been totally destroyed; for, the next day, so violent a tempest arose, that no ship could withstand its impetuosity, (the wind blowing right on the shore, where the fleet lay,) before the harbour was their own. One ship of war, which had not entered the harbour, was lost, and not a man saved.

Mont Orgueil Castle, which had sustained so many sieges, and remained unconquerable, was next attacked; but it was not in a state of defence to make much resistance; the fortifications had been neglected, and this Castle, which had withstood the great Du Guesclin, was,

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for the first time, taken by force, after a short resistance.

The whole Island was now subdued, except Elizabeth Castle, to which De Carteret and his little army had retreated. Plunder and devastation were universally extended through the country; the churches were polluted—the altars were overturned, and the pulpits profaned, with fanatic blasphemy. The intelligence of this success having arrived in England, the members of the House of Commons appointed a day of solemn thanksgiving, for the success of their arms.

The most arduous task of this expedition yet remained to be accomplished by the army of Cromwell. De Carteret was secure in his present retreat, and

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from the situation of the Castle a regular siege could not be attempted. The hill, near the town of St. Helier, stands at the distance of six hundred geometrical paces from the Castle. On that eminence, they erected their batteries, and began to fire with twelve thirty-six-pounders. After many days firing, the impression made on the Castle was trifling. At length two mortars were opened, and a shell from one of them fell on a powder magazine, blew it up, and killed forty soldiers, and several artificers, destroying also much ammunition and provisions.

At this time intelligence was brought to the castle, that the King had evaded the pursuit of his enemies, and was safely arrived in France. De Carteret embraced this occasion, to animate the drooping spirits of his countrymen. "Our King lives!"

lives!" says he, "Heaven has preserved him for future greatness: we have already twice afforded him an asylum from the murderers of his royal father, shall we now disgrace our loyalty and allegiance by an ill-timed and unnecessary capitulation. France, in compassion to an exiled Sovereign, may send us aid. Let us dispatch a messenger to his Majesty, and know his sentiments: it will be too soon for brave men to yield, when they can resist no longer." Mr. Poindextre and Mr. Durel were sent to France, to ask the King's advice, how to act in their present critical situation? Charles was, at the court of France, deserted by the King, and neglected by Mazarine, his minister. The dread of Cromwell had extinguished every sensation of pity for royalty in distress, and averted every inclination to assist an exiled Prince. Such was the situation

ation in which the messengers of De Carteret found their Sovereign. Charles assured them, " that there existed no hopes of his receiving assistance from the King of France. Mazarine is not more my friend than Cromwell!—I therefore leave the affairs of Jersey to De Carteret, he has my permission to act as he pleases; however, it is my advice, that he capitulate on honourable terms, rather than sacrifice the lives and liberty of brave men, in a fruitless resistance."

This answer being brought to de Carteret, he for some time time concealed it from his companions. Hope is the last support which quits the bosom of a brave man. At length their provisions began to fail, and the approach of famine alarmed them more than the rebel army. He then dis-

disclosed the King's answer to the garrison, and they agreed to surrender. De Carteret capitulated, and marched out of the castle, on honourable terms. Jersey, his native country, was no longer an abode for him; he therefore went and resided in France, until the nefarious actions of the rebel crew compelled the people to recall their King, who, on his restoration, remembered the services of his Jersey subjects, and conferred many marks of his favour on them. Sir George de Carteret was made vice-chamberlain of the houshold, and a member of the privy council, besides being constantly near the King's person. To the Island he presented a large silver mace, which is carried before the magistrates, on all solemn occasions. It is engraven, with an inscription, acknowledging his obligations to the islanders,

islanders, having twice found a safe retreat in Jersey, when he was excluded from his other dominions.

When William and Mary were acknowledged sovereigns of Great Britain, the men of Jersey became their willing subjects; and since that revolution, they have joyfully united in all the successive acts, which have established the crown on the heads of the present family.

In 1779, an attempt was made by the Prince of Nassau, with five thousand French, to land on the Island; he was, however, prevented, by making his appearance on the coast, after day light.

In the year 1781, the French landed here, and obtained possession of the town of St. Helier, together with the governor,

whom

whom they surprized in his bed. They were soon attacked by the militia, and other military stationed in the Island, and obliged to surrender, after a short resistance. Major Pierson, a most deserving officer, fell on this occasion.

Many other attacks have been made on Jersey, by the French, besides these recorded here, but they have ended, in disgrace to themselves, and glory to the brave inhabitants.

Few nations, of any extent, have produced a race of men more distinguished by their fidelity and valour, than this little spot. Those of the name of De Carteret have been illustrious almost beyond example: one of the family has circumnavigated the globe twice, in the reign of his present Majesty.

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There are ten signal posts erected round the coast of this Island, commanded by lieutenants of the navy, with proper assistants, at each of which are fire beacons and a cannon, for the purpose of giving alarm, should an enemy approach the Island. The governor receives all the King's revenue, in Jersey, as his salary, which arises from the alienated church lands, forfeited manors, the great tithes of ten parishes, rents, &c. He has the royal court under his protection, being obliged to assist the bailly and jurats with his authority in the execution of their judgments. He has the power, with two of the jurats, to arrest and imprison any inhabitant, on suspicion of treason. No inhabitant can go out of the Island, and no stranger can come and settle in it, without his permission. He has the custody of the castles, and the entire com-

mand of the militia, which he regulates as he pleases, and appoints their officers. Many other privileges are attached to the appointment, not necessary to specify here.

Elizabeth Castle, the principal fortress in Jersey, is a place of great strength, being surrounded by the tide at half-flood. It completely commands the bay of St. Aubins and the road, and entrance to the harbour of St. Helier. It was begun to be built in the reign of Edward the Sixth, when all the bells in the Island, except one to each church, were ordered to be taken down and sold, to assist in defraying the expence of the building. Queen Elizabeth made it a strong castle, and gave it her name, but it was not compleated until the reign of Charles the Second, who finished it nearly in the state

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it is at present. There are sixty-eight pieces of cannon mounted in this castle, besides mortars, viz. 26 twenty-four-pounders; 6 eighteen-pounders; 3 six-pounders, all long guns; 5 sixty-eight-pounders; 15 twenty-four-pounders; 1 eighteen-pounder; 12 twelve pounders, carronades; 4 mortars, and 1 howitzer. As long as Great Britain has the dominion of the seas, this castle may be considered impregnable, as the fleet might always supply it with provisions. The only siege of consequence it has experienced, was by the forces of Cromwell, which has been related.

When the French landed in this Island, in the year 1781, after taking possession of the town of St. Helier, they marched against this castle, with the governor of the Island at their head, who gave orders

for it to surrender. He was answered by a cannon ball, which soon convinced him, and his friends the French, that his orders were ineffectual, and they retired precipitately. The only approach by land to this castle, is over the sands, when the tide will admit of it; where, for three quarters of a mile, an enemy must be exposed to the fire from the castle, without any means of throwing up works against it; and, if it is not conquered in a few hours, the besieging army must retire from a force which ensures conquest—the returning tide. It has barracks for a regiment of soldiers, magazines, bomb-proofs, &c. sufficient to sustain a long siege.

Mont Orgueil Castle was the principal fortress in Jersey, before Elizabeth Castle was built: it received its present name in the reign of Henry the Fifth; before that

period

period it was called Gouray Castle, from the village in its neighbourhood: it was at that time of so much importance, that no foreigner was suffered to enter it, without being blindfolded. Before the use of artillery, it must have been impregnable; and we have certain accounts of its withstanding the repeated attacks of the French; but from the near vicinity of a hill, which commands it, a few pieces of heavy artillery, in the hands of an active enemy, would soon render it untenable, in its present neglected state. There are some pieces of cannon still mounted on it, and a company of soldiers are quartered there, in war time: it is one of the signal stations of the Island.

Grosney Castle was once a place of considerable strength, but at present scarcely a vestige of it remains. St. Aubin's Fort

is situated on a rock, surrounded by the sea, at high water: it commands that part of St. Aubin's Bay which is at the greatest distance from Elizabeth Castle, and protects the town and harbour of St. Aubin's.

There are Martello towers erected all around the Island, and every bay is defended by numerous batteries, which have been considerably improved and enlarged by the present active and patriotic lieutenant-governor, who has opened a military communication from one bay to another round the Island.

The Militia of Jersey far exceeds, both in number and discipline, that of any part of his Majesty's dominions, of the same extent of country. Every inhabitant from the age of sixteen to sixty, must serve in

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the militia ; and all above that age, if able, are attached to the batteries. The boys are trained to the use of arms, from the age of thirteen to sixteen, by an inspector and nine assistant-inspectors of militia, who are appointed by Government for that purpose. Prizes are given annually to the most expert of the boys, at the manual and platoon exercise, &c. under the inspection of the lieutenant-governor, so that when the boys are arrived at the age of sixteen years, they are completely drilled soldiers, accustomed to the use of arms, and equal to any military duty. Such men as are unable to bear arms, are stationed in the batteries. The militia consist of two thousand men ; and the battery-men amount to eight hundred : the militia are divided into six regiments, to which fifteen field pieces are attached ; these field pieces are, in general, lodged

in a magazine or store, at each of the parish churches, where also arms and ammunition are kept. The artillery are particularly well trained: their precision in manœuvring, and steadiness in firing, have excited the admiration of the regular artillery stationed here. The militia and battery-men are clothed and armed by Government, but receive no pay.

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LANGUAGE, MANNERS, &c.

THE language of this Island is French: that in general use, is the old French of Normandy, and is the only language used by the lower class of people: the higher ranks understand good French, but unfortunately they descend to the language of the lower class, in their general conversation with them, instead of making use of good classical language, which might, in time, improve the jargon at present spoken. The English language is understood and spoken by the higher class of inhabitants. It is usual for every family who can afford it, to send some of their children to England, to be educated, by which means, they acquire the English language grammatically; and, from the great intercourse

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with England, and the number of troops quartered in the Island, they have abundance of opportunities to practice it.—The inhabitants are civil and courteous to strangers; but by no means hospitable or social, until they have received a good introduction, or from long residence are well known. This arises from the many deceptions which have been practised on them by strangers, and renders them extremely cautious whom they admit into their houses. The lower class have a spirit of independence seldom seen in other countries; and are, perhaps, the happiest people in the world: they have few wants, and there are scarcely any but have the means of supplying them, to the extent of their wishes: there are no poor who live entirely by alms. An artificer here can earn as much in one day as will supply all his wants for two: there are few

labourers,

labourers, and those so independent, that they think it a great favour done to their employer, to work for him, although paid very great wages; in consequence of this, a Jersey farmer understands a little of every thing necessary for domestic purposes. You may see him one day at the plough, the next cutting vraie, the following repairing his cider casks, mending his cart, threshing, fishing, making cider, trimming hedges, lopping trees, and a variety of other occupations, performed in other countries by a number of hands: this necessity induces a man to exert those faculties given him by Nature, and makes him feel that independence and consequence, bestowed by heaven, on mankind.

The manners of the people of this Island have been much changed, within these few years: the introduction of spi-

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rituous liquors has operated that change; formerly mead was the only fermented liquor known here: alcohol, by any name, had no existence in Jersey. At that time there was no physician in the Island, and the inhabitants lived to a great age. Cider was introduced from France, and finally wine, and spirituous liquors, of every denomination, which are sold so cheap, that the temptation to use them cannot be withstood, and it is at present almost universally customary for the middle and lower classes of inhabitants, to drink spirits before their breakfast. The women of Jersey work nearly as much as the men: they share in all the laborious occupations of cutting the sea-weed, planting potatoes, getting in the harvest, &c. They have a custom here unknown elsewhere, of holding *veilles*, or night-schools, as they are called, during the winter;

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the rooms in which they meet are ornamented with branches of trees, flowers, fern, &c. The women assemble, as soon as it is dark, with their work, which is, in general, knitting: the men soon after arrive, and all seated together, on straw or fern, pass the evening till ten o'clock, in conversation, singing, &c.

TOPOGRA-

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION, CURIOSITIES, &c.

THE Island of Jersey is divided into twelve parishes, so laid out, that each parish has a communication with the sea; this seems to have been done on account of an ancient custom which existed here. There was a road, called a Perguage, from the Latin Pertica, because it was one perch in breadth, from each church leading directly to the sea: the use of them was to conduct thither those, who for some capital crime had taken sanctuary in any of the churches, and had been sentenced to abjure the country: they were led along these Perguages to the sea, being still protected: if they delayed on the road, they lost the benefit of the sanctuary, and were liable to be seized, and suffer

fer the penalty of the law, for the crime they had committed. When sanctuaries were abolished at the reformation, these Perguages became the property of the crown, and were sold to the proprietors of land adjoining them. Each parish is divided into Vintaines, so called from the number of twenty houses, contained in each. Although the name still remains, most of the Vintaines have a much greater number at present. In the parish of St. Ouen, they are called Cueillettes, for what reason is unknown: St. Ouen's has six Cueillettes; St. Peter's, six Vintaines; St. Brelade, four vintaines; St. Mary, two; St. Lawrence four; St. John, three; St. Helier, four; Trinity, five; St. Saviour, six, St. Martin, five; Grouville, four; St. Clement, three.

St. Helier is the principal town in the Island;

Island; it is situated on a fine bay, and well defended by high hills, on one of which, immediately above the town, are extensive fortifications erecting at present. St. Helier contains about twelve hundred houses, and six thousand inhabitants: it is well watered by a stream running through it, besides public pumps, &c. In the center of the town is a large square, containing the royal court house, the main guard, and many good houses, shops, &c. In the center of the square is a fine pedestrian statue of George the Second, presented to the States of the Island, by Mr. Gosset. The church is a handsome gothic building, with a good organ: service is performed in French and English, to a numerous congregation, every Sunday. The market is one of the finest in Europe; each butcher has a shop to himself, with a covered walk in front,

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for the convenience of customers; a handsome piazza is carried round three sides, which is the market for vegetables, fruit, butter, fowls, &c. The fourth side is the front: it has three gates, with iron palisades, stone pillars, &c. making an elegant appearance. A convenient fish market adjoins, with a pump, and every accommodation to render it compleat. These markets are extremely well supplied with provisions of all kinds, which, upon an average, are sold nearly at the English prices. Meat, butter, and fish, are dearer here than in England; but vegetables, fowls, eggs, and fruit, are considerably cheaper: the market day is Saturday. The shops of this town are handsome, and well supplied with every article to be found in the repertories of the metropolis of Great Britain; and the cellars and wine vaults are filled with those pernicious luxuries,

so prejudicial to the health and morals of the inhabitants. The government house is a good building, with a garden, &c. There is a public library, well supplied with books, many considerable donations having been made to it. The pier for shipping, has been erected at a considerable expence, and incloses an extensive harbour, for the convenience of merchant vessels. There is a barrack for a regiment of soldiers adjoining the town, and another near it. The jail of the Island is in St. Helier; it is small and incommodious, but, to the credit of the inhabitants, generally unoccupied, except by the keeper. The theatre is the property of an English country manager, and is sufficiently capacious for the inhabitants. There are no manufactures in this town, as the price of labour, and scarcity of fuel, are unfavourable to their encouragement. Packets

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sail from hence, for the conveyance of letters to Weymouth, twice a week: the passage is generally short, and the accommodation for passengers excellent. Two gazettes are published, in the French language, weekly. No fairs are held here, but cattle are sold every market day.

St. Aubin is a small town, situated on the opposite side of the bay to St. Helier: it is well built, and lies convenient for trade, having a strong stone pier, where vessels of one hundred and thirty tons can enter at half flood tide: there is a market here, on Monday, and many good shops. The church of St. Brelade's parish (in which this town is situated) is at a considerable distance; the inhabitants have, therefore, built a chapel in the town,

in which divine service is performed every Sunday.

The roads of this Island are, in general, very bad, and sunk so low, that they act as drains to the adjoining fields, and in the winter are nearly impassable; there are very few more than ten feet wide; but, for the convenience of foot passengers, there is a raised causeway on the side, otherwise they would be impracticable for pedestrians. The presesent worthy and public-spirited lieutenant-governor has begun to improve the roads, by opening military communications, from St. Helier's, to the principal bays, so as to facilitate the passage of artillery, troops, &c. should the Island be invaded by an enemy. One road has been compleated from St. Helier to Grouville bay, eighteen feet

feet wide, and has received the name of Don's Road, in honour of the founder; another is finished from St. Helier to St. Ouen's bay, fifteen feet wide; and there is no doubt but that the activity and exertions of the commander in chief will, in a short time, improve all the roads which are necessary for the defence of the Island, or the conveniency of the inhabitants, if not curbed by the illiberal or parsimonious.

There is a large tract of land on the west side of the Island, which was once fertile, but has of late years been covered with sand, to a considerable depth; perhaps the industry of future generations may again restore it to a state of cultivation. Vessels, fitted for the trade, sail two or three in the week from hence to Southampton, which have good accommo-

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dations for passengers, and the carriage of goods.

There are still to be seen, in this Island, some monuments of pagan superstition: they are considerable curiosities, consisting of large flag stones, of vast weight, raised three or four feet from the ground, and supported by others of a smaller size: they are here called Paquelayes, a word perfectly local: these are certainly the same with the Cromlechs, so accurately described by Mr. Rowlands, in his "Mona Antiqua Restaurata," and by Mr. Toland, in his "Specimens of the Critical History of the Celtic Religion." They are found in all those parts of the world, where the superstition of the Druids had obtained, before the days of Christianity, and are the altars whereon sacrifices were offered by them of human victims, beasts, &c.

&c. Some years ago there were upwards of fifty existing in this Island, but the plough has exterminated many, and some have been removed for the sake of the stones. On the hill of St. Helier was a very large one, in high preservation: it was taken away within these few years, by a governor of this Island, and set up in his park in England. What would an antiquarian say to such sacrilege? This temple was discovered below the surface of the ground, by some workmen, in the year 1785: the circumference of the circle is sixty-six feet, the highest of the stones, nearly opposite the entrance, about nine feet; they are from four to six feet in breadth, and from one to three in thickness: the entrance or passage measures fifteen feet in length, five in breadth, and four in height: the circle opening to the area, contains five cells or recesses, vary-

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ing in depth, from two feet four inches to four feet three inches: these cells, and the entrance, are covered with stones, from eighteen inches to two feet thick. This curious structure appears to be a combination of the cromlech, the kist-vaen, the stones of memorial, and the pure druidical or barden circle. There is another in the same parish, on the heights of Rouge Bouillon, eleven feet and a half long, ten broad, and two thick, with many stones scattered near it. Near Mount Orgueil Castle there is a very magnificent one, consisting of a stone of immense weight, supported on five smaller stones: this large stone or altar, is fifteen feet in length, ten and a half in breadth, and three and a half in thickness. It is placed on an artificial mound of earth, which appears to have been circular, and probably this large altar was surrounded

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by a circle of stones. At la Coupe, near Rosel, is another considerable temple: it consists of twenty-one stones, set on end, in the form of an oval; within this oval, are fourteen others, in two straight lines, seven on each side; these support three large flag stones, each six feet in diameter, forming an altar, eighteen feet long. In the side of the hill, on which this temple stands, are several caves, probably formed for the purpose of containing the victims intended for the sacrifice.

There was, some years ago, in the parish of St. Saviour, a large rocking stone, so equally poised, that a child might move it—some barbarians threw it down, for the sake of the splinters, to be employed in building. There are many large caves, evidently natural, near St. Ouen; they are excavations made by the sea, and go

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to a considerable distance from the entrance. In St. Brelade's Bay are smaller caves, of the same nature. Many Roman and Gallic coins have been found here: the Roman coins are chiefly of the latter emperors: the Gallic are very ancient and curious.

This Island is beautifully diversified with hill and dale; wood, rocks, and water, but all on a small scale; the woods, on a nearer inspection, are found to be chiefly hedge rows, the water rivulets, and the vallies narrow, and of short extent. In this Island are many very ancient families: the De Carterets can trace their family as far back as the year 630. Gentlemen, possessed of the principal manors, or seigneuries, have the compliment paid them, of being addressed by the name of their seigneurie, as the seign-

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eur de St. Ouen, &c. The family names are chiefly Norman, some Breton, and many English.

The Island of Jersey is of much more importance to Great Britain than it is considered to be by those who have not well reflected on the subject. By her privateers, in time of war, she distresses the enemies; and, with her men, she supplies the fleets of Great Britain. In this view, was there nothing more, the Island deserves the attention of Government, and should always be kept in that state of defence, to ensure its safety. Its situation renders it the peculiar object of British vigilance; for, should it fall into the hands of France, its importance would soon be apparent.

On the coast of France, from Brest to Dunkirk,

Dunkirk, there is no port which is accessible to large ships of war. Havre de Grace will admit of none above forty-four guns; and Granville and St. Maloe can only give shelter to frigates. A harbour therefore situated between the extremes of that distance, would prove a most valuable acquisition to the French: in Jersey, such a harbour might with ease be constructed, at little expence.

Boaley Bay, situated on the north-east side of the Island, is capable of being made a port for the reception of a considerable fleet of line of battle ships; and, as it lays opposite to England, a fleet might sail from that port, with a wind which would detain the navy of Great Britain in the harbours of Portsmouth, Plymouth, &c. All the trade which passes through

through the Channel would be at the mercy of the French.

Should Jersey and Guernsey be put in a complete state of defence, they may be considered as two great bulwarks, placed by Providence in the British Channel, for the annoyance of the enemy, the protection of the trade, and consequently the support of Great Britain. This state of defence, the present lieutenant-governor has clearly pointed out, in Jersey, and if the British Government are aware of the importance of the Island, they will not refuse a few thousand pounds to complete his excellent plan.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 15, *for* vraie *read* vraic.

19, line 7, *for* choax *read* choux.

22, — 18, *for* Coateur *read* Couteur.

47, — 17, *dele* the.

77, — 14, *dele* time.

91, — 8, *for* vraie *read* vraic.

94 and 95, *for* Perguage *read* Perquage.

102, line 9, *for* Paquelayes *read* Poquelayes.

108, — 11, *for* Boaley Bay *read* Bouley Bay.

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MDZ Münchener DigitalisierungsZentrum Digitale Bibliothek

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